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Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 September 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 27 August 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/51/969-S/1997/673 of 29 August 1997).

I would like to recall that previous similar allegations regarding so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 1 August 1997 (A/51/959-S/1997/612 dated 4 August 1997). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are no different or more credible than the ones previously made, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in the south has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The aim of the Greek Cypriot administration in making these allegations is, as repeatedly pointed out before, to uphold the myth that it has sovereignty over the whole island and to provide a smokescreen for its reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island. In this context, I would like to draw attention to the fact that, within the framework of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are planning to stage joint military manoeuvres in and around South Cyprus next month. The provocative exercises code-named "Nikiforos-97", which are to be carried out in conjunction with the large-scale exercises of the Greek armed forces code-named "Toxotis-97", will reportedly involve, apart from the Greek Cypriot National Guard, the participation of Greek warships and a squadron of Greek warplanes (Greek Cypriot daily Simerini of 1 September 1997). It has been reported also in the Greek Cypriot press that the Greek Defence Minister Mr. Cohachopoulos and high-ranking officers of the Greek Armed Forces will be present in south Cyprus during the joint military manoeuvres and that the participating Greek military aircraft will fire at mock targets using live ammunition [illegible] land at the newly constructed Paphos airbase in south Cyprus. The creation of a warlike atmosphere under the guise of staging military exercises of an offensive nature will only serve to exacerbate the situation on the island as tension is already very high due to the Greek Cypriot side's decision to deploy the sophisticated S-300 missile system.

I trust that third parties who wish to contribute to the efforts for the finding of a peaceful solution to the Cyprus question, will see to it that the Greek Cypriot side abandons this policy of escalation and tension, which threatens the peace and stability in our region, and takes the necessary steps in the direction of establishing trust and confidence in the island.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus